



COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0509

April 27, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee of Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding in the amount of \$1,810,929 for the Lodi Health Center in the fiscal year 2023 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.

The project sponsor for this project is the San Joaquin Health Centers, and the project will be located in Lodi, CA 95240.

San Joaquin Health Centers (SJ Health), a Federally Qualified Health Center Look-Alike, will open a health center providing high-quality primary medical care in east Lodi to anyone, regardless of their ability to pay. The Lodi site will join SJ Health's network of seven other patient-centered clinics in San Joaquin County primarily serving the low-income population in the area. Staffed by two family medicine physicians and two nurse practitioners, the Lodi site will provide primary medical care to approximately 3,200 patients of all ages (through 11,000 visits) annually. It is anticipated that the vast majority of patients seeking care at the site will be residents of California's 9th Congressional District.

Among the culturally sensitive and language appropriate services provided at the site will be: full-scope adult and pediatric primary care; prenatal care; chronic disease care; well-child care; screenings; immunizations; referrals to needed specialty care; and health education. Patients will have a patient-centered medical home with regular access to primary care as needed. Transportation and telehealth services will be available for patients facing transportation barriers. Translation services are available for all. SJ Health is exploring the potential of adding dental and behavioral health services at the Lodi site within the next two years.

SJ Health identified the east Lodi area as a priority for expanded primary care services during its recently completed strategic planning process. The community health needs assessment (CHNA) it commissioned as a component of its 2022-2024 strategic planning found Lodi to be one of the areas of San Joaquin County with the highest concentration of unserved low-income individuals.

SJ Health plans to convert its existing office or other commercial space in Lodi into a community health center, specifically targeting the residents of east Lodi (95240 zip code) and the surrounding area. Once a space has been identified and leased, it is likely that significant renovation will be needed to convert it into a

health center. Additionally, the health center will need to be equipped with medical equipment and IT/telecommunications equipment. SJ Health will cover the other costs of opening and all costs of operating the clinic, and it projects that the clinic will become self-sustaining based on operating revenues within one to two years.

Funding for this project is a good use of taxpayers funds as it will be supporting prevention and early detection in a community currently suffering from a lack of access to primary care. This will drive improved health and well-being for the Lodi site's patients and significant reduction in future costs to the safety net health care system. Additionally, the Lodi site will become the hub for SJ Health's community health focused activities (testing, immunization, homeless outreach, agricultural worker outreach, mobile health services, school-based services) in the area promoting and protecting the health of people and the communities where they live, work, learn, and play. By funding the proposed project to establish a sustainable clinic for a community where the low-income population suffers from a lack of access to primary care, taxpayers will see returns on their investment including improved individual and community health, as well as associated cost savings to the health system going forward.

As a Federally Qualified Health Center, SJ Health is in compliance with all Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) requirements for community health centers. As is true of all its health centers, the SJ Health Lodi site will strive to provide high quality patient-centered care and serve a vital role in preventing and/or detecting illnesses and diseases at early stages among the low-income population it will serve.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jerry McNerney", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress